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Space

Making A Difference

Welcome to the summer edition of the Army Space Journal. We recently conducted the 6th Annual Space Cadre Symposium here in Colorado Springs. The planners for this event and publication got it right when they selected the controlling idea or theme – Space really is the best job in the Army. I say this because I know there is a high-degree of respect for the value that Space-based capabilities deliver to the fight and the overall Warfighter mission.

MAJ Glen Hees, a Space operations officer in the command's G3 section, summed up this value the best: "Space capabilities save lives. The ground Warfighter doesn't care how in-flight ballistics affect a Hellfire missile – he cares about taking out the bunker he's receiving persistent sniper fire from. Likewise, the Warfighter doesn't care about the fact that his communications are traveling thousands of miles through Space, he just wants his communication to get through. Space professionals often struggle with the question of whether they are truly having an impact. The basic tenets of shoot-move-communicate have not changed in the last 30 years. What has changed is the ability of Space to make these tenets better by helping the Warfighter gain situational awareness through timely terrain and imagery data and friendly force tracking. In this day of 'normalized' Space, many of the capabilities are taken for granted, but they nevertheless are vital to the Warfighter and his mission."

It's easy to point out indicators that this is a great career field – factors such as selection rates among Space operations officers for promotion and schools, availability for them to attend graduate schools, transfer of Space-related skills after retirement, expansion into new and exciting roles as Space potential develops, and opportunity to work with state-of-the art technology. These could be at least contributing factors for more than 80 officers becoming FA40s in 2007, 2008 and so far this year from the active component Army while nearly 735 enlisted and more than 250 government civilian employees were classified Space enablers this year. Even 17 Army captains turned down the Captains Incentive Program offer of \$25,000-\$35,000 to become FA40s.

Another indication that Space is a respected job in the Army community is the success of its members in Army terms – promotions and selection to Senior Service Colleges. The promotion boards show that Space professionals are holding their own and, in many cases, are doing better than the other functional areas they compete against in the Operational Support Career Field. In 2008, 50 percent of the officers

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in the primary zone for colonel were selected for promotion compared to 47.9 percent from the Operational Support Career Field. We also had two lieutenant colonels selected to attend a Senior Service College.

In the 2008 Lieutenant Colonel's board, FA40s were 13 for 13 in the primary zone and two were selected below the zone. In 2009, one made it above the zone, 8 of 10 from the primary zone for a 69.2 percent select rate against the Operational Support Career Field rate of 65.4 percent, and one was selected below the zone. From the 2008 and 2009 Majors boards, all the captains in the primary zone were selected. The selection rate for the Operational Support Career Field overall in those two years was 86.8 and 89.6 percent respectively.

Not bad – not bad at all!

There is also opportunity in terms of civilian education and life-after-military. Every year the Army pays for six officers to start on their master's degree through Advanced Civilian Schooling and for two officers to take advantage of the Training with Industry Program. Additionally, the Army Space Personnel Development Office – formerly the Space Cadre and FA40 Proponency Office – is working to create at least one PhD program. In addition, experience in Space operations transfers well into civilian pursuits – not all career fields can make that claim. Of those who have retired since January 2009, four are continuing to serve the military, one as an Army government civilian and three as defense contractors. One other sought and accepted a position as a policeman, again still serving the community.

I'd like to tell you about two officers who chose the Space field and why they think Space is valuable to the Army.

In 1999 when he designated “FA40” on his preference sheet, LTC Bob Klingseisen had already been involved in the Space field for nearly 10 years and knew he wanted to continue. He'd been a combat and topographical engineer. The Army had sent him to get a master's degree with a geospatial sciences concentration – he later taught the subject at West Point. He attended the Command and General Staff College and stayed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., to help write the tasks, conditions, and standards for the first FA40 qualification course. Later, he was one of the “guinea pigs” for that first course. Since then, Bob has worked at the strategic and operational levels at what was then U.S. Space Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and the National Security Space Office in Special Technical Operations, Space operations and Space policy and strategy billets.

He said that he's found the field to be interesting, challenging, and extremely rewarding. He starts the Army War College this month (congratulations, Bob). From his experience, he noted this about the value of Space to our military: “Without the capabilities provided by Space systems – such as communications, PNT

(positioning, navigation and timing), missile warning, remote sensing – that we have grown accustomed to, we would have to revert to an industrial age fighting force. This is something we are ill-equipped for, both mentally and physically.”

LTC Mike York added that the best job in the Army was being a commander, but Space is a close second. When he was a senior captain in 2000, he saw both risk and opportunity in the new functional area and wanted to be part of it – and had to put up a small fight to finally get it. He was selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School as an FA40, but the designation board placed him as an FA30! So Mike appealed and was made an FA40. Since then he has served in Special Technical Operations and Space billets at the former U.S. Space Command, U.S. Strategic Command and in the 82nd Airborne Division. Currently he is an Operations Branch Chief and Special Technical Operations planner in U.S. Africa Command. Mike said that he has worked in unique programs and has had exposure to operations which would have never happened had he not been an FA40.

Since he can't be a battery commander again, he's glad to be an FA40. He observed this about Space value: “Space matters because the medium of Space provides access to data and information that supports not just the multitude of military functions for operations – like intelligence and communications – but it also has an impact on civilian daily life. Something as simple as a Satellite Television broadcast can have an impact on military forces and interaction with a country's populace. Using remote sensing and geospatial information for water source analysis to potentially support Individual Displaced Personnel Camps can have an effect on conflict resolution or deter a crisis.”

This brings us back to the original point about respect for the work that the Space community provides. The reason there is respect is that the people in the Space cadre community make a difference. They face many challenges to understand and fully use leading edge technology in our military context as the full potential of Space is further explored and realized. An example of this challenge is in cyber warfare – FA40s and Space enablers will be involved in some way as those cyber electrons do travel through Space systems. The Space cadre leads and trains Soldiers, develops Army Space policy, writes requirements for Warfighters, provides commercial imagery, teaches in the schoolhouse, advocates Army equities, serves in joint Space-centric agencies, figures out how to reconstitute Space, and trains to fly in it.

So the future is bright because we have great Americans in our Space cadre who can see the possibilities and who are ready to plot their own destiny and that of this young career field. All of this considered, I think you'd have to agree that Space is a darn good job, if not the best in the Army.

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